

KBR:kbr 10/8/04 3382-57030-01 MS 36747.3 316119

PATENT
Atty. Ref. No. 3382-57030-01**REMARKS**

The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks.

The Applicants filed a preliminary amendment on January 30, 2001, in which the Applicants canceled claims 1-17 and added claims 18-50. The currently pending claims are shown in the claim listing above. The Applicants enclose photocopies of:

- (1) the preliminary amendment filed on January 30, 2001;
- (2) a postcard showing receipt of the preliminary amendment by the O.I.P.E. branch of the U.S. P.T.O. on February 5, 2001;
- (3) a check for \$474.00 filed with the preliminary amendment and cashed by the U.S. P.T.O. in February 2001.

The Office action dated September 13, 2001, rejected claims 1-17 as being unpatentable over of U.S. Patent No. 6,279,124 to Brouwer et al. The Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejections of these claims. The rejections (and the Applicants disagreement with the rejections) are moot, however, since claims 1-17 were canceled in the preliminary amendment filed January 30, 2001.

The Applicants respectfully request that the preliminary amendment filed January 30, 2001 be entered, and that the Examiner examine claims 18-50 as presented in the preliminary amendment filed January 30, 2001, and as shown in the claim listing above.

Respectfully submitted,

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